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ABSTRACT

Noting that understanding the contexts, continuities, and controversies of early childhood education is a particularly challenging task because of the diversity of the field, this book provides a critical examination of the issues and controversies surrounding early childhood practices, policies, and professional development. The book's chapters are divided into three sections, examining the social, political, and historical trends and issues affecting young people; curricular trends and issues affecting practice; and trends and issues affecting teacher preparation and professional development. The chapters are: (1) "Policies of the Early Childhood Field and Its Public: Seeking To Support Young Children and Their Families" (Stacie Goffin and others); (2) "Development Issues Affecting Children" (Joan Isenberg with David Brown); (3) "Valuing Cultural Diversity in the Early Years: Social Imperatives and Pedagogical Insights" (Marilyn Chipman); (4) "Working with Families of Young Children: Our History and Our Future Goals" (Nancy Briggs and others); (5) "Developmental Appropriateness: Curriculum Revisited and Challenged" (Shirley Raines); (6) "The Role of Computer Technology in Early Childhood Education" (Daniel Shade and Bernadette Davis); (7) "Assessing and Reporting Young Children's Progress: A Review of the Issues" (Sue Wortham); (8) "Playing with Play in Four Dimensions" (Patricia Monighan-Nourot); (9) "Perspectives on Inclusion in Early Childhood Education" (Doris Bergen); (10) "Early Childhood Programs: International Perspectives" (Mary Renck Jalongo and others); (11) "The Professional and Social Status of the Early Childhood Educator" (Doris Pronin Fromberg). Each chapter contains references. (HTH)

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